

8-11-1989

House Select Committee on Hunger, Foreign Affairs, Sudan

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Recommended Citation

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015), "House Select Committee on Hunger, Foreign Affairs, Sudan" (2015). The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum: Education, African Americans Repairs Education, African Amer. Racial Inequities (1989). *Series 4: House Committees, Washington, 1978 - 1989*. Series 4, Box 176, Folder 2912. Paper 1315.
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Select Committee on Hunger
U.S. House of Representatives
H2-507 House Office Building Annex 2
Washington, D.C. 20515

7/17/89

news release

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SUDAN FACT SHEET

CHRONOLOGY

1955--Sudan, Africa's largest country, gains independence

1983--Present civil war begins. The immediate cause was imposition of Islamic law. Long term causes involve recentralization of government and slow economic development in the South.

1988--250,000 people die from lack of food. Massive displacement of people due to civil war.

April, 1989--The Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army agree to cooperate with international organizations in "safe passage" of food and humanitarian relief. United Nations' Operation Lifeline begins.

May, 1989--Cease fire and preliminary peace talks begin

June, 1989--Military takes over Khartoum government led by Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Ahmed el-Bashir. After temporary suspension, the new government permits resumption of all relief flights.

July, 1989--James Grant, Director of UNICEF and UN special representative for Operation Lifeline declares an additional 40 million is needed to maintain international relief effort through November.

FIGURES

Total U.S. government contribution since February 1988 is \$85,227,023.

Displaced persons in government-held areas	1,100,000
Displaced persons in rebel held areas	1,000,000

Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia	350,000
Sudanese refugees in Uganda	50,000

MANUTE BOL

Manute Bol is a native of Southern Sudan, a member of the Dinka tribe and a non-political person who is concerned with the situation facing innocent civilians in his country. He returned from Sudan on July 12.

In 1978 Manute left his home in the South to play in basketball leagues in Khartoum. In 1983 he came to the United States, where he played at the University of Bridgeport. He has played in the four seasons in the National Basketball Association. He is the tallest player in league history. He is one of five players to block 300 shots in a single season. He has done it three times.

Manute was accompanied to Washington by his wife (Atong), his one-year-old son (Abuk) and his manager, Frank Catapano.

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